

U.S. Ser. No. 10/760,650

REMARKS

Applicant and the undersigned thank Examiner Aurora for her careful review of this application, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

By the present communication, claim 16 has been amended to define Applicant's invention with greater particularity and claim 20 has been cancelled. No new matter is added by the present amendment. Thus, claims 1-8, 10-17, 19 and 21-24 are pending, with claims 1-8 and 10-15 having been indicated as allowed.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 20, indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action dated January 23, 2007. Thus, as amended claim 16 and claims 17, 19 and 21-24 depending therefrom, are allowable. The objection of claim 20 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-17, 19 and 21-24 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Final Official Action mailed on January 23, 2007. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 were previously indicated as allowable, and as amended, claim 16 and the depending therefrom, are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all pending rejections to Claims 16-17, 19 and 21-24.

In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (713) 276-7400 so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Applicant believes no fees are due in association with this response. However, should the Commissioner deem any fees as being due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or to credit any overpayments, to the United States Patent Office Deposit Account No. 50-3786, attorney docket no. 08876.105017. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37

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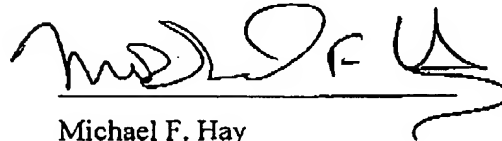
C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 50-3786, attorney docket no. 08876.105017.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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